

# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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**Cover:** Horned Lark at nest, College Park, Maryland. Photo by Brooke Meanley, April 1938.



## FIRST RECORD OF CURLEW SANDPIPER

(*Calidris ferruginea*)

IN MARYLAND

RICK BLOM

On October 16, 1985, I was with eight other observers at Hart-Miller Island, the large dredge spoil impoundment off the east side of Baltimore County. Late in the afternoon we were walking along the center dike of the impoundment on our way back to the boats we had rented to get to the island. About three-quarters of the way across the dike the group flushed a small group of shorebirds that had been feeding on the hard-packed gravel center of the dike. One of the birds immediately caught the attention of Bob Dixon, Hank Kaestner, and me. It recalled a Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) but showed a large white rump. We followed the bird, which landed behind us with several Pectoral Sandpipers (*Calidris melanotos*), and we were able to observe the long, slightly decurved bill. We immediately called the rest of the party, and the entire group watched the bird at leisure for about 45 minutes. Most observers made notes, and Bob Ringler obtained an excellent photograph of the bird.

The lateness of the day forced us to leave, and searches during subsequent weeks failed to relocate the bird. The following notes, transcribed from my field notes taken during the observation were submitted, along with Bob Ringler's photograph, and field notes from Hank Kaestner and others, to the M.O.S. Records Committee, and this observation was accepted as the first documented record for Curlew Sandpiper for Maryland.

*Common & Scientific Names:* Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

*Number & Plumages:* 1 juvenile/first basic

*Locality:* Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore County, Maryland

*Date:* 16 October 1985

*Time:* 4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

*Reporter:* Eirik A. T. Blom, 1618 Somerville Rd., Bel Air, MD 21015

*Other Observers:* Bob Ringler, Hal Wierenga, Bob Dixon, Hank Kaestner, Harvey Mudd, Marion Mudd, Julie Simpson, Phil Olsen.

*Light Conditions:* Fair to excellent, sun behind observers and at right angles to the bird.

*Optical Equipment:* 10x50 binoculars, 20-45x telescope

*Distance:* 30-150 feet

*Habitat:* Dry, hard packed gravel, dirt, and rocks on crossdike. Briefly on slightly dried dredge spoil.

**Behavior:** Most of the time the bird fed actively, in the company of four or five Pectoral Sandpipers *C. melanotos* and three or four Semipalmated Plovers *Charadrius semipalmatus*. Picked rapidly at ground and rocks (catching insects?), walking quickly and intently. Moved almost all the time it was under observation. Flew easily when flushed, keeping in formation with two Pectoral Sandpipers. Resumed feeding immediately upon landing.

**Description:** Roughly the size of Dunlin *C. alpina*. First seen in flight, showing a large white rump, a distinct white wing-stripe seeming to end on the inner primaries, and a longish, decurved bill. Sitting it looked slimmer, longer legged, and longer necked than a Dunlin or Pectoral Sandpiper. Bill black, fairly thick at the base, finely pointed at the tip; decurved throughout, slightly more sharply on the distal 25%. Eye dark. Legs black, proportionately longer and appearing more slender than legs of Dunlin or Pectoral. Feathers of wings and back medium gray-brown, slightly tending to gray, each feather entirely fringed with very pale buff or buffish-white except for some scapular feathers which on close scrutiny appeared to have thinner, chestnut-brown fringes. The effect was a bird with scaly looking upperparts, reminiscent of Baird's Sandpiper *C. bairdii*. Scapulars, and at least greater coverts with subterminal black bar. A faint dark shaft streak visible on some feathers on upperparts. Head, neck, and underparts white, crown densely streaked with medium dark gray, appearing solid at a distance, slightly darker than color of back feathers. The nape and the sides of the neck were finely streaked with gray-brown. The supercilium was white, slightly brighter behind the eye. A thin dark line passed from the base of the bill through the eye to the auriculars. The cheek was gray with a very faint hint of rufous directly below the eye. The chin was white. There were broad, indistinct, grayish streaks at the sides of the breast, and a pale gray wash across the breast. Wings extended slightly beyond the tail at rest, and the feet trailed slightly beyond the tail in flight. White rump, not visible on standing bird, was quite broad, looking in flight like a white tail with a narrow dark tail tip. The white was more extensive than on the rump of a White-rumped Sandpiper *C. fuscicollis*. The wing stripe, obvious from above, showed slightly translucent stripe on the white underwing.

**Voice:** Silent

**Similar Species:** Dunlin (50 - 100 present) without fringes to upperparts or streaking on sides of breast, center of rump dark, bill decurved only at tip, legs shorter, body dumper. White-rumped Sandpiper with shorter, straighter bill, browner upperparts, shorter legs, smaller body, shorter neck, spotting on flanks. Stilt Sandpiper *C. himantopus* with longer bill, decurved only at tip, chunkier body, upperparts less completely fringed, lacks white wing-stripe.

**Age:** Identified as juvenile or in molt to first basic on basis of complete fringes to all upperpart feathers. Hint of rufous to fringes of scapulars typical of juvenile. Most juveniles have a distinct buff wash across the breast. Absence of buff on this bird may be the result of molt or wear. Onset of post-juvenile molt usually from late September to late October, typically after reaching the wintering grounds.

**Photographs:** Bird photographed by Bob Ringler.

**Previous Experience:** I have seen Curlew Sandpiper on four occasions. Individuals in May at Little Creek, Delaware, twice in May at Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey, and one in October at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia.

This description was written from notes made in the field at the time of the observation. No field guides were consulted and all observers concurred in the identification at the time.

Curlew Sandpipers are reported almost every year in both spring and fall from the refuges on the Delaware and Virginia coasts, and from coastal New Jersey. The lack of previous records from Maryland is probably related to the shortage of good shorebird habitat on the Maryland coast.

1618 Somerville Road,  
Bel Air, Maryland 21015

# THE SEASON



## FALL MIGRATION, AUGUST 1 - NOVEMBER 30, 1990

ROBERT F. RINGLER

It was another mild, dry fall this year. Most observers again commented on the lack of cold fronts that typically produce good waves of warblers and other migrant passerines. Consequently, the season was generally described as fair to poor for these birds. There were few early arrivals but many late departures. See Table 1 for the median arrival and departure dates. Coverage throughout the state was very good, particularly because of the renewed effort on Assateague Island by Mark Hoffman.

*Observers:* George & Henry Armistead, Scott Atkinson, Barbara Bilsborough, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Peggy Bohanan, Larry Bonham, Bob Boxwell, Dave Brinker, Carol & Don Broderick, George Chase, Martha Chestem, Jeff Chynoweth, Dave Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Bob Dixon, Margaret Donald, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, Jerry & Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Harold Fogleman, Ralph Geuder, Greg Gough, Jim & Patricia Gruber, Doug Hackman, Dave & Maureen Harvey, Marvin Hewitt, Robert Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Dick Homan, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, Hank Kaestner, Greg Kearns, Ray Kiddy, Dennis Kirkwood, Dick Kleen, Wayne Klockner, Doug Lister, Leonard Lutwack, Gail MacKiernan, Nancy Magnusson, Kathy Mariano, Pat Melville, Stauffer Miller, Lee Murray (reporting for Monument Knob hawk watch), Mariana Nuttle, Michael & Paul O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jared Parks, Jim Paulus, Paul Pisano, Betty Pitney (reporting for Wicomico Bird Club), Fran Pope, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Chan Robbins, Barbara Ross, Gene Scarpulla, Bill Scudder, L. T. Short, Steve Simon, Teresa Simons, Connie Skipper, Chris & Eddie Slaughter, David Smith, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Jim Stasz, Hank Taliaferro, Mary Twigg, Charles & Gail Vaughn, David Walbeck, Mark Wallace, Robert Warfield, Pete Webb, Steve Westre, Joy Wheeler, Steve Whitcomb, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, George Wilmot, Erika Wilson, Dick & Jeanne Woods, Ben Yokel.

*Abbreviations:* DC (District of Columbia), MPEA (Middle Patuxent Environmental Area), NWR (National Wildlife Refuge), PRNAS (Patuxent River Naval Air Station), PWRC (Patuxent Wildlife Research Center), SP (State Park), WMA (Wildlife Management Area).

*Locations:* The following is a list of locations (with counties in parentheses) that cannot be found in the index of cities and towns on the state highway map. Assateague Island (Worcester), Battery Kemble Park (DC), Billmeyer WMA (Allegany), Black Hill Park (Montgomery), Blackwalnut Point (Talbot), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Bradenbaugh (Harford), Broadford Run (Garrett), Centennial Lake & Park (Howard), Colmar Manor Park (Prince George's), Cylburn Park (Baltimore City), Damsite (Kent), Deal Island WMA (Somerset), Eastern Neck Island NWR (Kent), Green Ridge (Allegany), Harford Glen Park (Harford), Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility



(Baltimore), Hog Island (Caroline), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Irvine Natural Science Center (Baltimore), Isle of Wight (Worcester), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven Reservoir (Baltimore), McKeldin Area of Patapsco Valley SP (Carroll), Merkle Sanctuary (Prince George's), Monument Knob (Washington), Pennyfield Lock (Montgomery), Point Lookout (St. Mary's), PRNAS (St. Mary's), Prettyboy Reservoir (Baltimore), Remington Farms WMA (Kent), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), St. Paul's Church (Kent), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Sugarloaf Mountain (Frederick), Summit Hall Turf Farm (Montgomery), Town Hill (Allegany), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Trout Run (Garrett), Turkey Point (Cecil), UMCF (Howard).

*Loons, Grebes.* Interesting reports of **Red-throated Loons** were 4 at North Beach on Oct. 17 (Stasz), 1 flying over Town Hill on Nov. 8 (Paulus), 1 at Hooper Island on Nov. 17 (Webb +), 1 at Cambridge on Nov. 22 (Czaplak), and 4000 flying past Ocean City and Assateague on Nov. 27 (M. O'Brien, Gough). A summering **Common Loon** was on Prettyboy Reservoir on Aug. 4 (Charlie Davis). Notable counts of migrating Common Loons were 30 flying over Monument Knob on Oct. 26 (Homan), 65 near Bellevue on Oct. 27 (Armisteads), 32 at Cambridge on Oct. 28 and Nov. 22 (Czaplak), 22 at PRNAS on Oct. 31 (Lister), and 89 flying over Town Hill on Nov. 8 (Paulus, Simons). **Highs for Pied-billed Grebes** were 51 in the Potomac River hydrilla in DC on Oct. 13 (Czaplak), 31 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 21 (Slaughters), and 29 at Loch Raven on Nov. 22 (Simon, Jenkins). The high for **Horned Grebes** on the coast was 26 at Assateague on Oct. 27 (Hoffman) and inland it was 7 at Centennial Lake on Nov. 13 (Farrell).

*Shearwaters, Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants.* While boating off Ocean City on Oct. 6, Wierenga and party found 45 **Cory's Shearwaters**. The first **Northern Gannet** report was of 2 off Ocean City on Sept. 16 (M. O'Brien, Blom); the peak of 2500 flew past Ocean City and Assateague on Nov. 27 (M. O'Brien, Gough). A surprise in the harbor at Baltimore was a **Brown Pelican** at Fell's Point on Aug. 11 (Jim & Katie Fox). On the coast there were 150 Brown Pelicans at Assateague on Sept. 16 (M. O'Brien, Blom); 140 were there on Oct. 13 (M. O'Brien) and a late one on Nov. 25 (Dave Weesner). The first **Great Cormorant** of the season was an immature at Ocean City on Nov. 3 (Davidson, Wierenga, Klockner). High counts of **Double-crested Cormorants** were 164 at Cove Point on Aug. 11 (Stasz), 200 at Point Lookout on Sept. 19 (M. O'Brien), 102 in DC on Oct. 13 (Czaplak), 69 flying over Rockburn on Oct. 20 (Solem, Magnusson, Farrell), and 1000 at Assateague on Oct. 26 (M. O'Brien, Hoffman). Late birds included 1 at Denton on Nov. 20 (Nuttie) and 7 in DC on Nov. 25 (Janni).

*Herons, Ibis.* An early **American Bittern** was at Harford Glen on Sept. 14 (Kirkwood), and the most seen at one location was 4 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 17 (Slaughters). **Late Least Bitterns** were 1 at Lilypons on Aug. 23 (Whitcomb) and an extraordinary 6 at Hog Island on Sept. 12 (M. O'Brien). Czaplak counted 94 **Great Blue Herons** on the DC hydrilla on Oct. 13 for the season's best tally. The highest counts of **Great Egrets** were 24 in DC on Aug. 11 (Czaplak), 30 at Assateague on Sept. 9 (Hoffman), and 14 at Lilypons on Sept. 22 (Howard Youth). Other inland Great Egrets were 2 at Piney Run on Oct. 13 (Ringler, Smith), 2 at Deep Creek Lake on Oct. 14 (Pope), 1 flying over Town Hill on Oct. 15 (Paulus), and 1 at Loch Raven on Oct. 21 (Simon). Late Great Egrets included 1 at Denton on Nov. 17 (Nuttie), 9 on Assateague on Nov. 18 (Hoffman), and 4 in DC on Nov. 19 (Czaplak). Notable reports of **Snowy Egrets** were 30 on Assateague on Sept. 9 (Hoffman), 8 in DC on Oct. 13 (Czaplak), and 1 there on Oct. 17 (Janni). Late reports of

**Little Blue Herons** were 1 in DC on Oct. 13 (Czaplak), 1 at Assateague on Nov. 11 (down from 40 on Sept. 9, Hoffman), and an adult at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). The only **Tricolored Heron** seen on the Western Shore was at North Beach on Aug. 19 (Stasz). On the Eastern Shore there were 50 at Assateague on Sept. 9 (Hoffman), 1 at West Ocean City on Nov. 23 (Mary Humphreys), and 1 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). Highs for **Cattle Egrets** were 42 at Queen Anne on Sept. 3 (Grubers), 60 at Assateague on Sept. 15 (Hoffman), 42 near Birdsville, Anne Arundel County on Sept. 19 (Arlene Ripley), 20 at Rising Sun on Oct. 6 (Fogleman), and 36 at North Beach on Oct. 20 (Stasz). Late Cattle Egrets were 1 at Lilypons on Sept. 30 (Wilson), 6 at Owings on Oct. 26 (Stasz) and 1 at Blackwater on Nov. 11 (Magnusson, Val Barnes). Late **Green-backed Herons** were 1 at Lilypons on Nov. 3 (Harveys, Ringler) and 1 at Pinto on Nov. 4 (Simons). Interesting reports of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were 1 at Galena on Aug. 19 (Reese), an immature at Lilypons on Sept. 10 (Whitcomb), 4 at Colmar Manor on Sept. 15 (Lutwick +), 21 at West Ocean City on Oct. 13 (M. O'Brien), and 85 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). Unusual in DC was a wild immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at the National Zoo on Aug. 25 (Hilton); the latest for the year was an immature at West Ocean City on Oct. 13 (M. O'Brien). Rather late was an immature **White Ibis** at Summit Hall Turf Farm on Sept. 8 (Ed Bruce). Unusual inland was a **Glossy Ibis** that was seen in several places in the Lilypons area from Aug. 1 (Whitcomb) through Oct. 30 (Miller). Other reports were 1 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 26 (Webb +), 21 at Assateague on Sept. 16 (Hoffman), 4 flying past Sandy Point on Oct. 12 (Davidson, Wierenga), 4 at Point Lookout on Oct. 13 (Wilson), and 6 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough).

*Swans.* An extraordinarily early **Tundra Swan** was flying over Town Hill on Sept. 17 (Paulus). The next report was of 4 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 20 (Grubers), followed by 1 in DC on Oct. 27 (Janni). Highs for the season were 150 over Germantown on Nov. 10 (Warfield) and 450 at Ruthsburg on Nov. 14 (Grubers). A record high 610 **Mute Swans** were at Hooper Island on Aug. 12 (Armisteads) indicating the species' continued surge southward in Chesapeake Bay. Meanwhile, 2 at North Assateague on Oct. 13 (M. O'Brien) may indicate the population at Chincoteague is spreading north on the coast. There were 92 Mute Swans at Eastern Neck on Oct. 20 (Grubers). Also see Exotic Waterfowl.

*Geese.* The first **Snow Geese** of the season were 5, including 2 blues, at Remington Farms on Sept. 18 (Grubers). The first inland Snow Goose was at Unity on Oct. 1 where there was also a "Blue Goose" on Oct. 23 (Whitcomb). There were 6 Snows in the DC hydrilla on Oct. 13-20 (Czaplak). Highs for the season were all by the Grubers with 15,000, including 42 blues, at Queen Anne on Nov. 1, 5000 including 30 blues at Sassafras on Nov. 11, and 30,000 at Ruthsburg on Nov. 17. The only sighting of **Ross' Goose** at Blackwater this season was on Nov. 22 (Czaplak). Unusual locations for **Brant** were Denton with 2 on Oct. 14 and 25 (M. Miller) and Blackwater with an immature from Oct. 28 through Nov. 25 (Czaplak +). The high for Brant was 500 at Assateague on Oct. 27 (Hoffman). Flocks of locally breeding **Canada Geese** were 40 in DC on Aug. 4 (Hilton) and 150 at Piney Run on Aug. 15 (Ringler +). The first suspected migrants were 14 at Remington Farms on Sept. 16 (Grubers). The high count of Canadas for the fall was 4000 at Merkle on Oct. 4 (Wilson). Henry Armistead found one small race Canada Goose at Blackwater on Nov. 4.

*Puddle Ducks.* Michael O'Brien estimated an incredible 500 **Wood Ducks** at Hog Island on Sept. 6 while the next best count was 88 at North Branch on Sept. 13 (Twigg).

**Table 1. Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Fall 1990**

Species	Arrivals		Departures	
	10-Yr.	1990	10-Yr.	1990
Common Loon	10/7	9/30	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	9/8	9/17	-	-
Horned Grebe	10/30	11/2	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	7/30	7/11	11/7	11/18
American Bittern	10/23	10/18	-	-
Great Egret	7/25	7/28	10/17	11/4
Snowy Egret	7/30	7/29	10/10	10/11
Little Blue Heron	7/28	7/28	9/15	9/22
Cattle Egret	8/4	7/14	10/11	10/8
Green-backed Heron	-	-	10/6	10/22
Glossy Ibis	-	-	9/6	10/13
Tundar Swan	11/7	11/5	-	-
Snow Goose	10/9	10/4	-	-
Canada Goose	9/26	9/28	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	11/7	11/17
Green-winged Teal	9/4	9/3	-	-
Northern Pintail	9/29	9/9	-	-
Blue-winged Teal	8/15	8/8	10/14	10/13
Northern Shoveler	9/17	9/9	-	-
Gadwall	10/14	10/20	-	-
American Wigeon	9/28	10/1	-	-
Canvasback	11/1	10/25	-	-
Redhead	11/10	11/9	-	-
Ring-necked duck	10/21	10/16	-	-
Greater Scaup	10/29	10/14	-	-
Lesser Scaup	10/19	10/22	-	-
Oldsquaw	11/3	11/6	-	-
Black Scoter	10/17	10/21	-	-
Surf Scoter	10/16	10/14	-	-
White-winged Scoter	10/23	10/22	-	-
Common Goldeneye	11/6	11/4	-	-
Bufflehead	10/31	10/28	-	-
Hooded Merganser	11/8	11/6	-	-
Common Merganser	11/18	11/26	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	11/7	11/9	-	-
Ruddy Duck	10/7	10/4	-	-
Osprey	8/17	8/27	10/26	11/25
Northern Harrier	9/8	9/5	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/13	9/11	-	-
Cooper's Hawk	9/17	9/11	-	-
Broad-winged Hawk	8/24	8/30	10/5	10/1
Rough-legged Hawk	11/8	11/5	-	-
American Kestrel	8/15	7/23	-	-
Merlin	9/23	9/14	-	-
Sora	9/1	8/16	-	-
Common Moorhen	-	-	9/23	10/14
American Coot	10/9	10/13	-	-
Black-bellied Plover	8/10	8/11	-	-
Lesser Golden-Plover	9/10	8/3	10/8	10/10



**Table 1. (cont.) Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Fall 1990**

Species	Arrivals		Departures	
	10-Yr.	1990	10-Yr.	1990
Semipalmated Plover	7/27	7/11	10/3	11/4
Greater Yellowlegs	7/20	7/12	11/9	11/13
Lesser Yellowlegs	7/13	7/11	10/27	11/3
Solitary Sandpiper	7/18	7/21	9/25	10/4
Spotted Sandpiper	7/14	7/16	10/4	10/13
Upland Sandpiper	8/4	7/30	8/26	8/27
Ruddy Turnstone	7/30	8/12	-	-
Sanderling	7/27	7/26	-	-
Semipalmated Sandpiper	7/21	7/17	10/5	10/8
Western Sandpiper	7/26	7/24	10/26	11/18
Least Sandpiper	7/15	7/7	10/9	11/4
White-rumped Sandpiper	8/20	8/15	10/28	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	7/23	7/24	10/29	11/3
Dunlin	10/7	10/7	11/12	11/9
Stilt Sandpiper	7/29	7/24	10/3	10/15
Short-billed Dowitcher	7/17	7/11	9/16	9/25
Long-billed Dowitcher	-	9/5	-	11/25
Common Snipe	9/18	9/16	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	11/27	11/24
Bonaparte's Gull	10/31	10/27	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	7/16	7/14	-	-
Caspian Tern	7/21	7/27	10/16	10/20
Royal Tern	8/14	-	11/8	11/4
Common Tern	7/31	-	9/25	10/13
Forster's Tern	7/10	7/14	11/14	11/18
Least Tern	-	-	8/25	8/15
Black Tern	7/27	7/26	9/5	9/9
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	9/18	9/15
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	-	10/4	10/1
Short-eared Owl	11/6	11/3	-	-
Common Nighthawk	8/20	8/21	9/19	9/28
Whip-poor-will	-	-	9/17	9/7
Chimney Swift	-	-	10/10	10/19
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	-	-	9/25	9/29
Red-headed Woodpecker	9/23	9/16	-	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	9/29	10/1	-	-
Northern Flicker	9/17	9/16	-	-
Olive-sided Flycatcher	8/28	-	9/11	9/13
Eastern Wood-Pewee	-	-	10/2	10/1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	8/19	8/21	9/24	9/18
Acadian Flycatcher	-	-	9/19	9/20
"Traill's" Flycatcher	8/18	8/11	9/14	9/23
Least Flycatcher	8/21	8/24	9/26	9/23
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	10/28	12/6
Great Crested Flycatcher	-	-	9/14	9/11
Eastern Kingbird	-	-	9/11	9/19
Purple Martin	-	-	9/3	9/1
Tree Swallow	7/29	7/28	10/23	10/24
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	7/25	7/17	10/3	10/18

**Table 1. (cont.) Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Fall 1990**

Species	Arrivals		Departures	
	10-Yr.	1990	10-Yr.	1990
Bank Swallow	7/13	7/15	9/13	9/24
Cliff Swallow	-	-	9/6	9/13
Barn Swallow	-	-	9/27	9/30
Black-capped Chickadee	11/6	11/2	-	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9/16	9/15	-	-
Brown Creeper	9/30	10/5	-	-
House Wren	-	-	10/12	10/21
Winter Wren	10/3	9/23	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10/2	10/3	-	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9/21	9/16	-	-
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	9/16	9/16
Veery	8/27	8/20	9/27	9/30
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9/18	9/18	10/10	10/8
Swainson's Thrush	9/3	9/5	10/16	10/17
Hermit Thrush	10/7	10/8	11/6	-
Wood Thrush	-	-	10/9	10/6
Gray Catbird	-	-	10/27	11/1
Brown Thrasher	-	-	10/12	10/30
American Pipit	10/21	10/21	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	8/27	8/30	-	-
White-eyed Vireo	-	-	10/2	10/7
Solitary Vireo	9/24	9/21	10/19	10/30
Yellow-throated Vireo	-	-	9/14	9/22
Warbling Vireo	-	-	9/14	9/11
Philadelphia Vireo	9/11	9/17	9/30	9/24
Red-eyed Vireo	-	-	10/6	10/9
Blue-winged Warbler	8/19	8/19	9/14	9/12
Golden-winged Warbler	8/22	-	9/10	9/7
Tennessee Warbler	8/30	9/1	10/9	10/12
Orange-crowned Warbler	10/11	9/30	10/30	11/7
Nashville Warbler	9/1	9/1	10/10	10/12
Northern Parula	-	-	10/3	10/1
Yellow Warbler	-	-	9/15	9/27
Chestnut-sided Warbler	8/23	8/24	9/25	9/26
Magnolia Warbler	8/25	8/27	10/11	10/13
Cape May Warbler	9/2	9/2	10/7	10/13
Black-throated Blue Warbler	8/30	8/31	10/12	10/14
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9/25	10/1	-	-
Black-throated Green Warbler	9/3	9/1	10/11	10/16
Blackburnian Warbler	8/24	8/27	9/25	9/22
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	9/11	9/9
Pine Warbler	-	-	10/8	10/13
Prairie Warbler	-	-	9/22	9/29
Palm Warbler	9/18	9/17	10/24	10/23
Bay-breasted Warbler	9/5	9/3	10/2	9/29
Blackpoll Warbler	9/12	9/11	10/8	10/8
Black-and-white Warbler	8/18	8/20	10/6	10/13
American Redstart	8/14	8/18	10/7	10/14
Prothonotary Warbler	-	-	9/7	8/29

Table 1. (cont.) Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Fall 1990

Species	Arrivals		Departures	
	10-Yr.	1990	10-Yr.	1990
Worm-eating Warbler	-	-	9/9	9/9
Ovenbird	8/17	8/25	10/8	10/15
Northern Waterthrush	8/15	8/8	9/25	9/27
Louisiana Waterthrush	-	-	8/25	8/27
Kentucky Warbler	-	-	9/5	9/12
Connecticut Warbler	9/6	9/9	9/30	10/6
Mourning Warbler	8/22	8/28	9/25	9/10
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	10/18	10/21
Hooded Warbler	-	-	9/19	9/19
Wilson's Warbler	9/2	9/5	9/22	9/25
Canada Warbler	8/18	8/20	9/20	9/17
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	9/18	9/18
Summer Tanager	-	-	9/19	9/18
Scarlet Tanager	-	-	10/5	10/10
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9/6	9/2	10/5	10/10
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	9/23	10/1
Indigo Bunting	-	-	10/8	10/17
American Tree Sparrow	11/20	11/17	-	-
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	11/3	11/8
Savannah Sparrow	9/23	9/14	11/1	-
Fox Sparrow	10/30	10/27	-	-
Lincoln's Sparrow	9/21	9/22	10/19	10/14
Swamp Sparrow	9/30	10/4	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	9/27	10/2	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	10/11	10/11	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	9/30	10/2	-	-
Snow Bunting	11/6	11/1	-	-
Bobolink	8/20	8/3	9/22	9/18
Rusty Blackbird	10/22	10/31	-	-
Orchard Oriole	-	-	8/28	8/20
Northern Oriole	-	-	9/14	9/16
Purple Finch	10/6	10/13	-	-
Pine Siskin	10/23	10/29	-	-
Evening Grosbeak	11/2	10/31	-	-

November Wood Ducks included 20 at Oakville on the 14th (Rambo), 2 at Deep Creek Lake on the 23rd (Skipper), and 1 at North Branch on the 24th (Kiddy). The 4 **Green-winged Teal** at Easton on Aug. 1 (M. O'Brien) were unusually early for migrants. High Green-wing counts were 2000 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 3 (Dixon) and 320 in DC on Nov. 19 (Czaplak); 24 on Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 23 (Skipper) were interesting there. The high for **American Black Ducks** was 313 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 3 (Grubers); for **Mallards** it was 2000 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 16 (Ringler +), 700 at West Ocean City on Nov. 24 (O'Briens), 1100 in DC on Nov. 17 (Janni), and 374 on Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 30 (Skipper). An early **Northern Pintail** was at Easton on Aug. 1 (M. O'Brien); highs of 3000 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 14 (Ringler +) and 380 in DC on Nov. 17 (Janni) were noted. High counts of **Blue-winged Teal** were 70 at Easton on Aug. 31 (M. O'Brien), 150 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 2 (Kaestner +), and 110 in DC on Sept. 8 (Czaplak); for **Northern**

**Shovelers:** 150 at Chestertown on Sept. 18 (Grubers), 1000 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 14 (Ringler +), and 50 in DC on Nov. 17 (Janni); and for **Gadwall:** 21 in DC on Nov. 10 (Czaplak), 20 at Piscataway on Nov. 17 (Czaplak, Kearns, Bjerke), and 29 at Assateague on Nov. 18 (Hoffman). Early **American Wigeon** were 2 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 19 (Blom +) and 1 at Easton on Sept. 6 (M. O'Brien); highs of 28 at Herrington Manor on Oct. 25 (Pope), 38 near Triadelphia on Oct. 30 (Wallace +), 98 at Loch Raven on Nov. 9 (Simon), and 80 on Assateague on Nov. 11 (Hoffman), were all dwarfed by the 7000 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough).

*Aythya Ducks.* Czaplak found an early **Canvasback** in DC on Oct. 17 and 70 birds there on Nov. 10. Few **Redheads** were reported with the most being 5 at Cambridge on Nov. 24 (Reese). Early **Ring-necked Ducks** were 1 in DC on Sept. 20 (Czaplak), 1 at Piney Run on Sept. 30 (Ringler, Hackman), and 2 at West Ocean City on Oct. 7 (Ringler +); seasonal highs were 400 in DC on Oct. 29 (Czaplak), 270 at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 30 (Bonham), and 328 at Loch Raven on Nov. 30 (Simon). A **Greater Scaup** in DC on Oct. 13 and 2 there on Nov. 10 (Czaplak) and a female at North Branch on Nov. 11-15 (Webb +) were unusual. The mixed scaup flock at Hart-Miller grew from 600 on Oct. 14 (Ringler +) to 10,000 on Nov. 3 (Dixon) with Lessers predominant by a wide margin.

*Eiders, Oldsquaws, Scoters, Buffleheads.* An immature male and 3 female **Common Eiders** were a rarity for Sandy Point on Oct. 10 (Wierenga +); 2 female **King Eiders** at Ocean City on Nov. 22 (MacKiernan) were more expected. High coastal plain counts of **Oldsquaws** were 110 at Sandy Point on Oct. 27 (Czaplak), 127 on the St. Mary's River on Nov. 15 (Boxwell), and 200 at Cambridge on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough); 8 at Triadelphia on Nov. 8 (Chestem) was the top inland count. The first **Black Scoters** of the Season were 10 at Ocean City on Sept. 9 (Warfield); the peak numbers were 1040 at Assateague on Oct. 21 (Hoffman) and 3000 flying past Ocean City and Assateague on Nov. 27 with 2000 **Surf Scoters** (M. O'Brien, Gough). Other Surf Scoters were 40 off Assateague on Oct. 4 (Chynoweth), 12 at North Beach on Oct. 6 (Stasz), 1100 at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Hoffman), and 2 females at Piney Run on Nov. 4 (Ringler +). The only notable **White-winged Scoter** was at Denton on Oct. 22 (Hewitt). The 14 **Buffleheads** at North Beach on Oct. 5 (Stasz) were exceptionally early. These were followed by high inland counts of 70 at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 29 (Bonham) and 100 at Triadelphia on Nov. 8 (Chestem, Zeichner). Other high Bufflehead numbers were 600 near Bellevue on Nov. 3 (H. Armistead, 336 on the Potomac River in Prince George's and Charles counties on Nov. 17 (Czaplak, Kearns, Bjerke), and 540 at Assateague on Nov. 17 (Hoffman).

*Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks.* The first **Hooded Merganser** was at Assateague on Oct. 20; 18 were there on Nov. 12 (Hoffman), and the high for the season was 41 on Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 30 (Skipper). Michael O'Brien and Gough estimated 500 **Red-breasted Mergansers** flying past Ocean City and Assateague on Nov. 27. The 8 **Ruddy Ducks** at Hurlock on Aug. 25 (H. Armistead) had probably summered there; the first likely migrants were 2 at Chestertown on Sept. 16 (Grubers) and 1 at Piney Run on Sept. 23 (Ringler, Hackman). The best Ruddy Duck count was 3500 in DC on Nov. 10 (Czaplak).

*Exotic Waterfowl.* A **Black Swan** was seen flying down the Potomac in DC on Nov. 1 (Tom Prosch) and another was at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). a **Common Shelduck** was at Piney Run from Sept. 23 through November (Ringler, Hackman +). Probably the same drake **Falcated Teal** that had been seen the previous winter was near Triadelphia on Oct. 30 and later (Wallace +).

*Vultures, Hawks.* See Table 2 for the results of the hawk watch at Town Hill as compiled by Jim Paulus and Table 3 for the results from Monument Knob compiled by Lee Murray. A **Black Vulture** at Dan's Rock on Oct. 7 (Kiddy) was the westernmost report, and 2 on Assateague on Oct. 19 (Hoffman) and 3 there on Nov. 3 (Hilton) were the easternmost. Migrant **Turkey Vultures** included 29 at Sandy Point on Oct. 30 (Wierenga +), 21 at Assateague on Nov. 3 (Hilton), and 6 at Bittering on Nov. 13 (Skipper). Late **Ospreys** were singles at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 19 (Czaplak), near Salisbury on Nov. 23 (Vaughns), Chestertown on Nov. 26 (Floyd Parks) and Annapolis on Nov. 30 (Iliff). Interesting reports of **Bald Eagles** were 1 near Damascus on Sept. 5 (Greg Stiner), an adult at Lilypons on Sept. 10 (Whitcomb), 8 at Remington Farms on Sept. 18 and 8 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 13 (both Grubers), 21 on the Potomac River in Charles and Prince George's counties on Nov. 17 (Czaplak, Kearns, Bjerke), 32 at Conowingo on Nov. 25 (Yokel) and 2 adults and 1 immature throughout the season around Triadelphia (Magnusson +). An early **Northern Harrier** was at PRNAS on Aug. 17 (Rambo) and 6 were at Ruthsburg on Nov. 10 (Grubers). Early **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were singles at Triadelphia on Aug. 31 (Chase) and Owings on Sept. 2 (Stasz), and highs for the season included 47 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 13 (Grubers), 19 at Rising Sun on Oct. 14 (Fogleman), and 20 at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Hoffman). A **Cooper's Hawk** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 26 (Armisteads) was probably an early migrant, and 19 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 13 (Grubers) was the high count. **Northern Goshawks** not noted in the tables were an adult at Delmar on Nov. 9 (Tom Simpson) and an immature at Monument Knob on Nov. 12 (Czaplak). Among the hawks counted at Sandy Point on Oct. 30 by Wierenga and party were 44 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, an extraordinarily late **Broad-winged Hawk**, and

**Table 2. Hawk Migration at Scenic US40 Overlook, Town Hill, Allegany County - Fall 1990**

Species	First	Last	Total	Best Days
Black Vulture	8/30	11/21	20	9 on 8/30, 4 on 10/17
Turkey Vulture	-	-	39	-
Osprey	8/30	10/20	56	10 on 9/15, 7 on 10/10
Bald Eagle	9/10	11/9	9	3 on 10/28, 2 on 9/10
Northern Harrier	9/15	11/17	29	4 on 11/5, 3 on 11/9
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/30	11/25	1021	134 on 10/10, 125 on 10/9
Cooper's Hawk	9/10	11/8	90	16 on 10/15, 12 on 10/10
Northern Goshawk	10/16	11/9	8	2 on 10/26 & 11/15
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/10	10/28	10	2 on 10/2
Broad-winged Hawk	8/30	10/5	585	176 on 9/15, 167 on 9/17
Red-tailed Hawk	8/30	11/25	793	94 on 11/5, 86 on 10/26
Rough-legged Hawk	11/5	11/21	2	
Golden Eagle	10/29	11/21	20	8 on 11/5, 3 on 11/12
American Kestrel	8/30	10/26	140	32 on 9/15, 30 on 9/17
Merlin	9/15	11/5	7	3 on 10/15
Peregrine Falcon	10/10	10/17	3	2 on 10/10
Unidentified			14	
TOTAL (229 hours)	8/30	11/25	2846	244 on 10/5, 243 on 9/15

*Compiled by Jim Paulus.*



**Table 3. Hawk Migration at Monument Knob, Washington  
Monument State Park - Fall 1990**

Species	First	Last	Total	Best Days
Osprey	8/31	10/22	175	27 on 10/12, 15 on 9/20
Bald Eagle	9/3	11/8	11	3 on 9/25, 2 on 9/10
Northern Harrier	8/31	11/26	104	13 on 10/12, 10 on 11/5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/31	11/17	1860	376 on 10/12, 162 on 10/21
Cooper's Hawk	8/31	11/18	101	14 on 10/19, 12 on 10/21
Northern Goshawk	11/15		1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/26	11/23	84	19 on 11/5, 8 on 10/30
Broad-winged Hawk	8/30	10/13	2287	1179 on 9/14, 471 on 9/15
Red-tailed Hawk	8/31	11/29	1267	150 on 11/6, 125 on 10/28
Rough-legged Hawk	11/11		1	
Golden Eagle	10/21	11/14	9	2 on 10/21
American Kestrel	8/31	10/24	133	32 on 9/15, 19 on 10/12
Merlin	9/15	11/8	24	4 on 10/19, 3 on 9/15 & 10/9
Peregrine Falcon	9/14	10/19	6	2 on 9/23
Unidentified			207	
TOTAL (413.75 hours)	8/30	12/2	6270	1196 on 9/14, 563 on 9/15

*Compiled by Lee Murray.*

**190 Red-tailed Hawks.** Highs for Broad-wings included 1200 over northeast Baltimore on Sept. 16 (Yokel), 470 in eastern Howard County on the same day (Geuder), 400 at Upper Marlboro on Sept. 23 (Stasz), and a late 13 at Rockville on Oct. 1 (O'Briens). The Grubers noted a dark-phase Red-tailed Hawk at Hope on Nov. 1. The first **Rough-legged Hawks** of the season were 1 at Jug Bay on Oct. 27 (Ricciardi) and a light-phase bird at Ruthsburg on Oct. 30 (Grubers). Other Rough-legs included a light-phase bird at Federal Hill in Allegany County on Nov. 11 (Webb +), 8 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough), and a dark-phase at Sudlersville on Nov. 28 (Reese). The first Golden Eagles of the season were a very early adult at Lilypons on Oct. 1 (Whitcomb) and an immature at Georgetown Reservoir on Oct. 21 (Czaplak, Hilton). Other Golden Eagles away from the traditional wintering area at Blackwater were an immature at Urieville on Nov. 11 (Grubers) and an immature at Conowingo on Nov. 25 (Yokel).

**Falcons.** A migrant **American Kestrel** was at Hart-Miller on Aug. 12 (Ringler +) and the Grubers counted 36 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 13 for the season's high. Merlins were widely reported, including early birds on Aug. 4 near Oakland (Pope) and at Upper Ferry (Brodericks). The best single-day totals of **Merlins** were 9 at Assateague on Sept. 17 (M. O'Brien, Blom) and 3 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 13 (Grubers) with the latest migrant 1 at Ruthsburg on Nov. 16 (Grubers). There were so many reports of **Peregrine Falcons** that they can only be summarized. The most interesting were 1 in southern Howard County on Aug. 3 (Harveys), 1 at Mt. Airy on Aug. 18 (Smith) — the first for Carroll County, 1 at Green Ridge on Sept. 23 (Simons), 1 at Turkey Point and 1 at Conowingo on Oct. 9 (Yokel), an immature at Point Lookout on Oct. 13 (Wilson), and 4 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 13 (Grubers).

*Pheasants to Cranes.* Coastal plain reports of **Ring-necked Pheasants** were 2 at Greensboro on Sept. 18 (Fletchers), 1 at Denton on Oct. 1 (M. Ellwanger), a male near Fort Meade on Oct. 6 (Larry Murphy), and a male in Howard County at Laurel on Oct. 27 (Churchill). The high for **Wild Turkeys** was 41 on Green Ridge on Sept. 27 (Twigg). A **Clapper Rail** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 26 (Armisteads) was at about the northern limit for that species. Michael O'Brien counted 9 **King Rails** at Hog Island on Sept. 12 and 13 **Virginia Rails** there on Aug. 8. Other Virginias included 1 at Centennial on Nov. 4 (Ott, Magnusson, Farrell) and 10 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). Migrant **Soras** were 1 at Horsehead Sanctuary on Aug. 16, 4 at King's Creek on Sept. 6 and 2 at Hog Island on Sept. 12 (all M. O'Brien), 1 at Piney Run on Sept. 23 and 30 (Ringler, Hackman), and 1 at Centennial on Oct. 22 (Ott +). Reports of **Common Moorhens** were of 2 adults and 5 immatures at Hughes Hollow on Aug. 9 (Czaplak), 2 immatures at West Ocean City on Oct. 13 (M. O'Brien), an adult in the DC hydrilla on Oct. 13-14 (Czaplak, Hilton), and 3 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 21 (Slaughters). At Loch Raven the count of **American Coots** went from 30 on Oct. 7 to 560 on Nov. 30 (Simon), and in DC the tally was 570 in the hydrilla on Nov. 10 (Czaplak). The **Sandhill Crane** at Poolesville remained through the season.

*Plovers, Oystercatchers, Avocets.* Highs for **Black-bellied Plovers** were 32 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 19 (Blom +) and 41 at Assateague on Oct. 7 (Hoffman). In DC there were 3 Black-bellies at Hains Point on Aug. 23-24 (Czaplak, Janni) and 3 on the hydrilla on Oct. 13 (Czaplak). At inland sites there were 2 Black-bellies at North Branch on Aug. 23, of which 1 remained on Sept. 13 (Simons, Twigg +), 5 at Hurlock on Aug. 25 (H. Armistead), 1 at Green Manor Turf Farm on Aug. 25-26 (Solem, Farrell +), 1 at Triadelphia on Sept. 18 (Farrell), and 1 at Blackwater on Nov. 17 (Webb +). The first **Lesser Golden-Plovers** of the season were 1 at Summit Hall on Aug. 11 (P. O'Brien) and 2 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 19 (Blom +). High counts of Golden-Plovers were 18 near Black Marsh on Aug. 25 (Brian Stern), 21 at Hurlock on Aug. 25 (H. Armistead), and 40 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 16 (Ringler +). Also inland were 2 at North Branch on Sept. 9 (Simons, Twigg +) and 2 at Green Manor on Sept. 22 (Magnusson, Farrell); the latest was 1 in southern Frederick County on Nov. 20 (M. O'Brien, Gough). Highs for **Semipalmated Plovers** were 345 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 5 (Kaestner +) and 100 at Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +), and the latest were 2 at Elliott on Nov. 4 (H. Armistead) and 2 at Assateague on Nov. 18 (Hoffman). A migrant **Piping Plover** was seen at Hart-Miller on Aug. 26 (Dixon) and Sept. 9 (Whitcomb). High counts of **Killdeer** were 75 at Summit Hall on Aug. 11 (P. O'Brien), 130 at Green Manor on Aug. 14 (Solem, Bockstie), 90 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 2 (Kaestner +), 72 at Ruthsburg on Oct. 30 (Grubers), 100 at North Branch on Nov. 4 (Simons), and 80 in DC on Nov. 19 (Czaplak). There were an estimated 100 **American Oystercatchers** at Ocean City on Oct. 7 (O'Briens +). Migrant **American Avocets** numbered 2 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 19 (Blom +) and 1 on Sept. 9 and 16 (Whitcomb +), and 4 were in DC on the hydrilla on Aug. 26 (Czaplak, Hilton).

*Yellowlegs through Turnstones.* High numbers for **Greater Yellowlegs** were 50 at Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +), 125 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 19 (Blom +), and 41 in DC on Sept. 8 (Czaplak). Late Greaters were in Charles County on Nov. 17 (Wilmot), 1 at Tanyard on Nov. 26 (Engle), and 20 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). Highs for **Lesser Yellowlegs** were 29 at Summit Hall on Aug. 11 (P. O'Brien), 100 on Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +), 850 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 19 (Blom +), at 150 at Easton on Sept. 6 (M. O'Brien), and 30 at Tanyard on Oct. 1 (Engle). The last **Solitary Sandpiper** of the year was at North Branch on Oct. 13 (Kiddy). Migrant **Willetts**

were 1 identified as a western at Lowes Wharf in Talbot County on Aug. 2 (Ringler), 4 at North Branch on Aug. 5 and 2 there on the 7th (Simons +), 4 westerns at Hart–Miller on Aug. 5 with a peak of 7 on Aug. 12 and 2 remaining on Sept. 2 (Kaestner +), and 1 on Assateague on Sept. 15 (Hoffman). The high for **Spotted Sandpipers** was 20 at Hart–Miller on Aug. 12; the last 1 was there on Oct. 14 (Ringler +). **Migrant Upland Sandpipers** peaked at 17 near Lilypons on Aug. 20 (Whitcomb), and the latest were 2 at Greensboro on Aug. 30 (Westre). The high count of **Whimbrels** was 9 at Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +), and 1 at Hart–Miller on Sept. 16 and 30 (Ringler +) was unusual. Hart–Miller was the only site for **Hudsonian Godwits** with 5 on Aug. 12 (Ringler +) and 1 remaining very late on Nov. 3 (Dixon). **Marbled Godwits** also appeared at Hart–Miller beginning with 1 on Aug. 12 followed by 2 on Aug. 19 and 26, and 2 on Oct. 14 (Ringler +). The other Marbled Godwits were seen on the coast with 1 on Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +), 3 at Ocean City from Oct. 7 through Nov. 3 (MacKiernan +), and 1 on Assateague on Nov. 28 (D. & J. Woods). Migratory **Ruddy Turnstones** included 50 on Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +), 37 at Hart–Miller on Aug. 19 (Blom +), 6 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 20 (Grubers), and the only inland report at North Branch with 1 on Aug. 22 and 2 on Aug. 23 (Twigg +).

*Calidris Sandpipers.* Reports of **Red Knots** included 1 at Hart–Miller on Aug. 5 and an incredible 50 there on Sept. 2 (Kaestner +), 3 on Assateague on Oct. 25 (Hoffman), and 1 at Blackwater on Nov. 24 (M. O'Brien, Ringler +). The high for **Sanderlings** was 1000 on Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +) followed by a mere 50 at Hart–Miller on Sept. 16 (Ringler +). Other Sanderlings of note were 2 at North Branch on Aug. 23 and 1 there as late as Oct. 4 (Simons, Twigg +) and 5 at Cambridge on Nov. 22 (Czaplak). High counts of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were 1700 at Hart–Miller on Aug. 5 (Kaestner +), 130 at North Branch on Aug. 23 (Twigg), and 60 at St. Paul's Church on Aug. 28 (Grubers); the latest was 1 at Hart–Miller on Nov. 3 (Dixon). **Western Sandpipers** were well represented, with 500 at Hart–Miller on Aug. 12 (Ringler +), 21 at St. Paul's Church on Aug. 28 (Grubers), 80 on Assateague on Oct. 7 and 1 there on Nov. 18 (Hoffman), 3 at Denton on Oct. 27–28 (Hewitt), 5 at Elliott on Nov. 4 (H. Armistead), and single birds at Blackwater and Cambridge on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). **Least Sandpipers** numbered 23 at North Branch on Aug. 9 (Twigg), 100 at Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +), 420 at Hart–Miller on Aug. 26 (Dixon +), 200 at St. Paul's Church on Aug. 28 (Grubers), 35 at Tanyard on Oct. 6 (Engle), 20 at Elliott on Nov. 4 (H. Armistead) and 1 at Assateague on Nov. 11 (Hoffman). Early **White-rumped Sandpipers** were 1 at Easton on Aug. 2–4 (Blom +) and 1 at Hart–Miller on Aug. 5 (Kaestner +). An extraordinary assemblage of White-rumps occurred at Hart–Miller where 370 were counted on Aug. 26 (Dixon +), by far the largest number ever seen in the state. Other White-rumps were 1 at East Potomac Park on Aug. 26 (Czaplak, Hilton), 2 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 26 (Armisteads), 4 at St. Paul's Church on Aug. 28 (Grubers), and the last 7 at Hart–Miller on Nov. 3 (Dixon). **Baird's Sandpipers** for the year were 1 at East Potomac Park on Aug. 25 (Hilton), 8 at Hart–Miller on Sept. 2 (Kaestner +) and 1 there on Sept. 30 (Webb +), 1 at Lilypons on Sept. 9–10 (Whitcomb), and 2 at Easton on Sept. 9–15 (Ringler +).

High counts of **Pectoral Sandpipers** were 150 at Easton on Aug. 9 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga), 100 on Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +), 41 in DC on Aug. 24 (Czaplak), and 200 at Hart–Miller on Sept. 16 (Ringler +); the latest were 2 at North Branch on Nov. 7 (Simons). MacKiernan noted 50 **Purple Sandpipers** at Ocean City on Nov. 22. A breeding-plumaged **Dunlin** of the Greenland race was identified on Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga, Davidson, Brinker). Other interesting reports of Dunlins were 1 at

Easton on Sept. 15 (Blom +), 4 at Lilypons on Oct. 20 (Ringler +), 8 at Jug Bay on Oct. 20 (Tliff, Taliaferro), 550 on Assateague on Oct. 21 (Hoffman), 1 at Laytonsville on Oct. 23 (Whitcomb), 8 in DC on Nov. 2 (Janni), 490 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 3 (Dixon), 5 at North Branch on Nov. 8, and 1 there on the 9th (Simons, Twigg). There were 114 **Stilt Sandpipers** at Hart-Miller on Aug. 5 and 40 there on Oct. 15 (Kaestner +), 1 at North Branch on Aug. 20 with 4 there on Aug. 23 and 1 on Sept. 10 (Simons +), 3 in DC on Aug. 24 (Czaplak), 1 at Cambridge on Sept. 16 (Webb +), 9 at Easton on Sept. 20 (M. O'Brien +), and 7 at Lilypons on Oct. 13 (Ringler) where 6 remained on the 17th (Whitcomb).

*Other Sandpipers.* The only **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** of the year were 4 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 2-16 and 1 through the record late date of Oct. 15 (Kaestner +), and 1 at North Branch on Sept. 9-14 (Simons +). **Short-billed Dowitchers** numbered 100 on Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +), 15 in DC on Aug. 18 (Czaplak), 75 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 19 (Blom +), 2 at Green Manor on Aug. 26 (Magnusson, Farrell), 8 at Easton on Sept. 6 (M. O'Brien), 1 at North Branch on Sept. 20 (Twigg), and 1 at Lilypons on Sept. 30 (Wilson). There was an above average representation of **Long-billed Dowitchers** beginning with an early adult at Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +). At Hart-Miller there was 1 Long-bill on Sept. 2, 33 on Oct. 15 (Kaestner +), and 15 on Nov. 3 (Dixon). Other Long-bills were a juvenile at Easton on Sept. 5 and 5 there on Sept. 20 (M. O'Brien +), 2 at Lilypons on Sept. 22, 3 there on the 24th and 1 on the 26th (Whitcomb), 10 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 8 (Ringler +) and 6 there on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough), 14 in DC on Oct. 13 and 3 there on Nov. 19 (Czaplak), 1 at North Branch on Oct. 21 (Twigg), 1 at Assateague on Nov. 18 (Hoffman), and 37 at Blackwater on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). Early reports of **Common Snipe** were 2 at Hog Island on Aug. 8 (M. O'Brien) and 1 at Lilypons on Aug. 23 (Whitcomb); the high for the season was 25 at Easton on Sept. 15 (Fogleman). Migrant **American Woodcocks** included 7 on Assateague on Oct. 14 (Hoffman), 6 at Tanyard on Nov. 6 (Wilbur Engle), and 3 in Frederick County on Nov. 6 (Miller). The first **Wilson's Phalarope** of the season was at Easton on Aug. 4 (Davidson), and were 3 there on Sept. 5-11 (M. O'Brien +). Others were 1 at Cambridge on Aug. 15 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga) and the peak of 10 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 2 (Kaestner +). The only reports of **Red-necked Phalaropes** were 2 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 2 (Kaestner +), 1 at North Branch on Sept. 20 (Twigg), and 3 off Ocean City on Oct. 6 with 2 Red Phalaropes (Wierenga +). Quite unexpected inland was a **Red Phalarope** photographed at Frederick on Sept. 22-23 (Barbara Stephens, Miller +).

*Jaegers.* A dark **Parasitic Jaeger** was seen off Ocean City on Sept. 16 (M. O'Brien, Blom) and 4, including a juvenile and 3 adult or sub-adult birds, were flying past Ocean City and Assateague on Nov. 27 (M. O'Brien, Gough). A juvenile probable **Long-tailed Jaeger** was seen off Ocean City on Oct. 6 (Wierenga +).

*Dark-headed Gulls.* **Laughing Gulls** staged their most impressive post-breeding movements ever as phenomenal numbers moved up the bay and inland. In Howard County where numbers have been increasing steadily in recent years, the first **Laugher** was seen at Fulton on Aug. 11 (Farrell, Solem) and the peak was 1500 at Green Manor on Sept. 9 (Magnusson, Farrell); an exceptionally late bird was at Lake Kittamaquundi on Nov. 30 (Chestem). Unprecedented numbers also spilled over into Carroll County with 25 at Piney Run on Sept. 2 (Ringler, Hackman), 15 hawking insects over Eldersburg on Sept. 3, and a late bird at Piney Run on Nov. 22 (both Ringler). In Chesapeake Bay the peak was during the second half of August with 6000 at Hart-Miller on the 19th (Blom +), 650 at Chestertown on the 21st (Grubers), and 600 at Tilghman Island



on the 26th (Armisteads). Other high numbers were 720 in DC on Aug. 24 (Czaplak), 1500 flying over Hog Island at sunset on Sept. 12 and 4000 at Point Lookout on Sept. 19 (both M. O'Brien), 650 at Assateague on Sept. 29 (Hoffman), and 200 hawking insects over Centreville on Oct. 12 (Grubers). An oddity was a nearly all-white Laughing Gull at Ocean City on Oct. 6 (M. O'Brien +). An adult **Little Gull** was seen at Ocean City on Nov. 24 (O'Briens). The 5 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Hart-Miller on Aug. 19 (Blom +) may have summered locally. Inland Bonaparte's Gulls were single birds at Lake Kittamaquondi on Oct. 27 (Magnusson, Farrell), Lilypons on Nov. 12 (Miller), and Violet's Lock on Nov. 23 (Bonham). High counts of Bonies for the season were 80 at Sandy Point on Nov. 15 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga, Brinker) and 500 at Ocean City on Nov. 30 (Slaughters). A probable hybrid of a **Laughing Gull X Ring-billed Gull** was at Ocean City on Nov. 27 (M. O'Brien, Gough).

*White-headed Gulls.* High counts of **Ring-billed Gulls** were 3620 in DC on Nov. 19 (Czaplak) and 5000 at Ocean City on Nov. 27 (M. O'Brien). Details of a **California Gull** at Sandy Point on Oct. 29 (Blom, M. O'Brien) have been sent to the records committee. Highs for **Herring Gulls** were 1500 at Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +) and 1200 at Cambridge on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). The only reports of Herring Gulls in the western counties were an immature flying over Monument Knob on Nov. 12 (Czaplak) and 5 flying over Town Hill on Nov. 22 (Paulus). Very unusual was an **Iceland Gull** in first summer plumage at Hart-Miller on Sept. 16 (Ringler +). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** continue to proliferate as reports came from seven counties and DC. The earliest were 1 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 2 (Kaestner +), a 2nd-winter bird at North Beach on Sept. 8 (Stasz), an adult at Sandy Point on Sept. 14 (P. O'Brien, Scarpulla), a 3rd-winter bird at Blackwater on Sept. 19 and an adult at Laytonsville on Sept. 29 (both P. O'Brien), and a 2nd-winter bird at North Tilghman on Oct. 1 (Kleen). There were 3 Lessers at Sandy Point on Oct. 11 (M. O'Brien +), 4 adults at Ocean City on Oct. 7 (O'Briens), and 2 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 28 (Czaplak). High counts of **Great Black-backed Gulls** were 500 at Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +) and 450 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 14 (Ringler +). Unusual on land was an immature **Black-legged Kittiwake** on the beach at Assateague on the very early date of Oct. 7 (Hoffman).

*Terns, Skimmers.* A very late **Gull-billed Tern** was seen at Ocean City through Oct. 13 (M. O'Brien). Concentrations of **Caspian Terns** were 58 in DC on Aug. 11 (Czaplak), 280 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 19 (Blom +), 32 at Eastern Neck on Sept. 9 (Grubers), and 46 at Assateague on Oct. 7 (Hoffman). Other Caspian Tern reports included 3 at Triadelphia on Aug. 15 (Chestem), 3 at Loch Raven on Aug. 12 (Wheeler), 2 at Seneca on Sept. 9 (O'Briens), 3 at Sod Run in Harford County on Oct. 20 (Kirkwood), 1 at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Hoffman) and 2 at Sandy Point on Oct. 29 (M. O'Brien, Blom). **Royal Terns** numbered 400 at Ocean City on Aug. 11 and 200 on Oct. 7 (both M. O'Brien); 2 were extraordinary in DC on Sept. 11 (Czaplak). Late Royals were 2 at Piney Point, St. Mary's County on Nov. 14 (Reese) and 1 at Assateague on Nov. 18 (Hoffman). The only **Sandwich Terns** reported were 6, including 3 adults and 3 immatures, at Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga, Davidson, Brinker). High counts of **Common Terns** were 350 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 12 (Ringler +), an incredible 6000 at Point Lookout on Sept. 19 (M. O'Brien), and 173 at North Beach on Sept. 30 (Stasz). Late Commons were seen on Oct. 13 with 6 at Point Lookout (Wilson) and 3 at Ocean City (M. O'Brien). The peak for **Forster's Terns** at Hart-Miller was 1400 on Aug. 5 and 19 (Kaestner +); other highs were 500 off Tilghman Island on Sept. 30 (Reese) and 900 remaining at Ocean City and Assateague on Nov. 27 (M. O'Brien, Gough). The only inland Forster's Terns were



2 at Centennial on Aug. 20 (Farrell), and the latest away from the coast were 5 at Blackwater on Nov. 24 (M. O'Brien +). The only reports of **Black Terns** were 3 at Lilypons on Aug. 6 (Whitcomb), 1 at North Branch on Aug. 22-23 (Twigg +) and 2 there on Sept. 9 (Simons), 4 in DC on Aug. 18-26 and Sept. 16 (Czaplak, Hilton +), and 1 at Centennial on Sept. 14 (Bockstie, Solem). Number of **Black Skimmers** at Ocean City dropped from 500 on Sept. 16 (M. O'Brien, Blom) to 35 on Nov. 3 (Davidson, Wierenga, Klockner) to 1 on Nov. 24 (O'Briens).

*Doves, Cuckoos, Owls.* Interesting flights of **Rock Doves** were 150 flying east along the Bay Bridge on Sept. 13 and 150 at Sudlersville on Nov. 28 (both Reese) and 600 going to roost at Rockville on Aug. 3 with 1700 **Mourning Doves** (M. O'Brien). Other **Mourning Doves** were 650 at Remington Farms on Sept. 4 (Grubers) and 101 at North Branch on Sept. 7 (Simons). A **Ringed Turtle-Dove** was at Rising Sun on Sept. 5-14 (Fogleman). The only migrant **Black-billed Cuckoos** reported were single birds at Remington Farms on Sept. 4 (Grubers), banded at Adventure on Sept. 12 (Donnald), at Greensboro on Sept. 15 (Scudder), and banded at Bristol on Sept. 16 (Melville). The only **Long-eared Owl** seen was on Assateague on Nov. 27 (M. O'Brien, Gough). The first **Short-eared Owls** were seen on Nov. 3 with 1 at Hart-Miller (Dixon) and 1 at Irish Grove (Webb, Ricciardi +), followed by 1 near Church Hill on Nov. 15 (Grubers), 2 at Greensboro on Nov. 17 (Westre) and 3 there on Nov. 25 (Fletchers), and a high of 10 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). The only **Northern Saw-whet Owls** reported were single birds at Salisbury on Oct. 29 (Dave Weesner +), on Assateague on Nov. 12 (Hoffman), and banded at Laurel on Nov. 5 and Nov. 19 (Robbins).

*Caprimulgids, Swifts, Hummingbirds.* There were few reports of **Common Nighthawks** with the best being in the DC area where there were 65 at Chevy Chase on Aug. 24 (Leo Weigant) and 100 at Upper Sligo Creek Park on Aug. 25 (Mackiernan); the latest were 1 near Towson on Oct. 7 (Farrell) and 1 in DC on Oct. 9 (Homan). The only **Chuck-will's-widows** noted were 1 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 19 (Reese) and 1 seen on Assateague on Sept. 7 (Hoffman). The following late **Whip-poor-wills** were heard: 1 at Rockville on Sept. 26 (O'Brien's), 2 near Manokin on Sept. 28 (Randy Stadler), and 1 in Chevy Chase on Sept. 30 (Czaplak). High counts of **Chimney Swifts** were 500 at Chestertown on Sept. 12 (Grubers) and 5000 at Baltimore on Sept. 24 (Bohanan); 20 were at Ridgely on Oct. 24 (Scudder), which is late for that many. Late **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were 1 at Royal Oak on Oct. 3 (Jean Crump) and 1 banded at Damsite on Oct. 7 (Parks). A male **Rufous Hummingbird** was reported at Piney Point on Nov. 29 (Ann Breslauer).

*Kingfishers, Woodpeckers.* Movements of **Belted Kingfishers** often go unnoticed, but 1 at West Ocean City on Aug. 10 (Warfield), 1 at Hog Island on Sept. 13 (M. O'Brien), and 5 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hoffman) are evidence of some migration. The first of many migrant **Red-headed Woodpeckers** across the state was seen on Green Ridge on Aug. 31 (Simons). The most reported were 12 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 7 (Reese) and 5 at Turkey Point on Oct. 9 (Yokel). Hoffman noted migrant **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** on Assateague from Sept. 30 through Nov. 18 with 5 on Oct. 5, while Reese counted 21 migrants at Tilghman Island on Oct. 7. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** near Ellicott City on Aug. 7 (Ott) may have summered locally, and the first migrant was at Columbia on Sept. 16 (Chestem). Yokel found the most sapsuckers with 8 at Cylburn on Oct. 2. Other migrant woodpeckers noted by Reese at Tilghman Island on Oct. 7 were 7 **Downy Woodpeckers** and 1 **Hairy Woodpecker**. Hoffman also saw a migrant **Hairy** on

Assateague on Oct. 28. High counts for migrating **Northern Flickers** were 67 at Remington Farms on Sept. 16 (Grubers), 52 at Turkey Point on Oct. 9 (Yokel), and 150 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 14 (Floyd Parks).

*Flycatchers.* Reports of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were 1 at Pennyfield on Aug. 21 (Bonham), 1 at Broadford Run on Aug. 24, another on Sept. 2 and 1 banded on Sept. 17 (Skipper, Pope), 1 at Centennial on Sept. 2 (Ott, Farrell), 2 at Blackwalnut Point on Sept. 8 (Kleen), and 1 at Hollywood on the very late date of Oct. 11 (Rambo). A juvenile **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was still begging at McKeldin on Sept. 8 (Ringler) and late individuals were at Sugarloaf on Oct. 9 (M. O'Brien) and Schooley Mill Park on Oct. 10 (Chestem). The first **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** of the season was seen at Rockville on Aug. 21 (M. O'Brien), and the best single days were 2 at Turkey Point on Sept. 3 (Yokel) and 4 banded at Damsite on Sept. 4 (Parks); the latest was 1 banded at Bristol on Sept. 23 (Melville). The peak migration day for "**Traill's**" **Flycatchers** was Aug. 30 when 7 were banded at Damsite (Parks), but a late **Willow Flycatcher** was identified on Oct. 1 at Rockville (O'Briens). The banding station at Irvine netted 7 **Least Flycatchers** from Aug. 24 through Sept. 30 (Ross +), the earliest and latest of the season, Parks banded 4 at Damsite on Sept. 4, and Henry Armistead saw 2 near Bellevue on Sept. 9. Reese estimated 25 unidentified *Empidonax* flycatchers at Tilghman Island on Sept. 8. High counts of **Eastern Phoebes** were 32 at Blackwalnut Point on Oct. 1 (Kleen) and 15 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 15 (Ringler +), and the latest birds in the Piedmont were 2 at Schooley Mill Park on Dec. 1 (Magnusson). A **Western Kingbird** at Pennyfield on Aug. 21 (Bonham) is the earliest ever reported in fall in the state. Later birds this year were seen on Assateague, 1 on Oct. 13 (Hoffman) and 1 flying south on Nov. 3 (Davidson, Wierenga, Scarpulla, Klockner). Reese noted a migrant **Eastern Kingbird** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 5, and high counts for the season were 30 at Piney Run on Aug. 15 (Ringler +), 20 at Assateague on Aug. 18 (M. O'Brien +), 75 at Kingston Landing on Aug. 21 (M. O'Brien), and 19 in Queen Anne's County near Tuckahoe on Aug. 27 (Grubers). Exceptionally late Eastern Kingbirds were singles in Howard County on Oct. 1 (Chestem) and at Concord on Oct. 21 (Scudder).

*Swallows.* The high for **Purple Martins** was a mere 100 at Hog Island on Aug. 14 (M. O'Brien), and the latest were 10 on Assateague on Sept. 17 (M. O'Brien, Blom). There were many reports of large numbers of **Tree Swallows**, with 10,000 at Hart-Miller (Ringler +) and 10,000 at Isle of Wight (M. O'Brien, Blom) both on Sept. 16; also 6000 at Assateague on Sept. 23 and 11,000 there on Oct. 27 (both Hoffman), 4000 at Remington Farms on Sept. 30, 2000 at Hope on Oct. 9 and 1200 at Hayden on Oct. 23 (all Grubers), and November reports of 2 at Town Hill on the 6th (Paulus +) and 17 at Assateague on the 18th (Hoffman). Highs for **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were 250 at Seneca on Aug. 1 (M. O'Brien) and 100 at Lilypons on Sept. 30 (Wilson); late birds were at Georgetown Reservoir on Oct. 30 (Czaplak) and 4 at Lilypons on Nov. 12 (Miller). Highs for **Bank Swallows** were 400 at Seneca on Aug. 1 (M. O'Brien), thousands at Hart-Miller on Aug. 12 and 200 there on Sept. 16 (Ringler +), 300 at Ruthsburg on Aug. 13 (Grubers), 600 at Hurlock on Aug. 25 (H. Armistead), and 2000 at Easton on Sept. 4 (Kleen); a late bird was in western Howard County on Sept. 26 (Wallace), and a record late bird at Sandy Point on Nov. 17 (Wierenga +) was a month after the previous state departure record. Late **Cliff Swallows** were 2 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 16 (Ringler +) and 10 at Centennial on Sept. 18 (Farrell). Highs for **Barn Swallows** were 500 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 26 (Armisteads) and 500 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 16 (Ringler +); single late birds were at North Branch on Oct. 12 (Simons), Lilypons on Oct. 20 (Ringler, Harvey Mudd) and

Assateague on Nov. 3 (Davidson, Wierenga, Klockner).

*Corvids, Parids, Nuthatches.* High counts of migrating **Blue Jays** were 1150 flying over Rockville on Sept. 26 (O'Briens), 1100 at Turkey Point on Oct. 9 (Yokel), 2868 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 13 (Grubers) and 700 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 14 (Reese). Early fall gatherings of **American Crows** were 450 at UMCF on Oct. 21 (Atkinson) and 800 at Rockville on Oct. 25 (M. O'Brien), and for **Fish Crows**, 260 near Bellevue on Nov. 11 (H. Armistead). The most **Common Ravens** reported was 9 at Town Hill on Oct. 15 (Paulus). There was a very small southward movement of **Black-capped Chickadees** this fall that was most noticeable at Broadford Run where 23 were banded on Oct. 24 (Skipper, Pope); this, despite being in the species' breeding range, was a tremendous increase over daily averages. The only others banded were 2 at Harford Glen on Nov. 1 and 1 there on Nov. 20 (Bilsborough +); and the only sightings were 2 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 1 (Grubers), 2 at Piney Run on Nov. 4 and 1 there on Nov. 22 (Ringler), and several at a feeder in Westminster in late November (Sue Yingling). Reese noted migrant **Tufted Titmice** at Tilghman Island with 1 each on Aug. 5 and Sept. 2, and 9 on Oct. 7. Parks found 3 early **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at Damsite on Aug. 30, but no major flight materialized. The maximum count was 11 on Assateague on Oct. 20 (Hoffman). **White-breasted Nuthatches** that were noted as migrants were 1 on Assateague on Sept. 16 (M. O'Brien) and 3 at Damsite on Oct. 21 (Grubers).

*Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers.* Michael O'Brien saw an albino **House Wren** on Assateague on Sept. 16, and the latest migrant was 1 at Schooley Mill Park on Dec. 1 (Magnusson). Early **Winter Wrens** were 1 banded at Broadford Run on Sept. 17 (Skipper, Pope), 1 at Loch Raven on Sept. 21 (Simon), and 1 at Schooley Mill Park on Sept. 22 (Chase); the high count was 21 on Assateague on Oct. 20 (Hoffman). **Sedge Wren** reports were of 1 on Assateague on Sept. 30, another on Oct. 19 and 27 (Hoffman), 1 at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 21 (Czaplak, Hilton), 1 at Irish Grove on Nov. 3 (Webb +), and 7 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). Migrant **Marsh Wrens** were 1 banded at Broadford Run on Sept. 29 and seen the next day (Skipper, Pope), 2 at Brown's Bridge on Sept. 30 (Magnusson, Farrell), 2 at Rockville on Oct. 1 and 25 (O'Briens), 1 at UMCF on Oct. 6 (Atkinson), and 1 at Lilypons on Oct. 23 (Whitcomb); 9 remained at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). The high count for **Golden-crowned Kinglets** was 170 on Assateague on Oct. 20 (Hoffman). An exceptionally early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was in Rock Creek Park on Aug. 30 (Hilton), and other early arrivals were 7 at Brown's Bridge on Sept. 4 (Chestem); there were highs of 100 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 14 (Reese), 65 at Schooley Mill Park on Oct. 17 (Solem, Bockstie), and 350 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 27 (Grubers). The first migrant **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** noted were 1 near Bellevue on Aug. 11 (H. Armistead) and 3 at Tilghman Island the next day (Reese); late birds were 1 near Ellicott City on Sept. 27 (Ott) and 1 at Assateague on Oct. 14 (Hoffman).

*Thrushes, Mimids.* A **Northern Wheatear** at Hog Island on Sept. 11-13 (M. O'Brien +) will be reported separately. High counts of **Eastern Bluebirds** were 59 at Fairlee on Sept. 22 (Grubers) and 250 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 4 (Reese). Early **Veeries** were 1 banded at Damsite on Aug. 12 (Parks) and 1 at Broadford Run on Aug. 20 (Skipper, Pope); high counts were 35 near Bellevue on Sept. 9 (H. Armistead) and 22 at Remington Farms on Sept. 9 (Grubers), and 1 late bird was banded at Adventure on Oct. 9 (Donnald). The first **Gray-cheeked Thrush** of the season was banded at Damsite on Sept. 5 (Parks), but Adventure took top

honors for this species with 69 banded for the season including 7 on Oct. 8 and the latest on Oct. 18 (Donnald +). The first **Swainson's Thrush** of the season was on Aug. 29 at Rockville where hundreds were heard flying over before dawn on Sept. 28, though the latest was 1 at Sandy Point on Nov. 16 (all M. O'Brien). A very early **Hermit Thrush** was at Denton on Sept. 13 (Nuttle) and the next 1 was banded at Broadford Run on Sept. 29 (Skipper, Pope); the peak of 10 was in DC on Nov. 12 (Czaplak). Late **Wood Thrushes** were 1 at Damsite on Oct. 21 (Grubers) and 1 banded at Adventure on Oct. 22 (Donnald +). Flocks of **American Robins** included 606 flying over Chestertown on Oct. 5 (Grubers), 150 at Mt. Nebo, Garrett County on Oct. 9 (Pope), hundreds at Turkey Point on Oct. 9 (Yokel), and 500 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 4 (Reese). The largest numbers of **Gray Catbirds** reported were 111 on Assateague on Sept. 23 (Hoffman), 70 at Rockville on Oct. 1 (O'Briens), and 40 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 13 (Grubers). Reese noted 19 migrant **Northern Mockingbirds** at Tilghman Island on Oct. 21, and 1 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 4 (Pope) was a rarity for that part of Garrett County. Hoffman counted 26 **Brown Thrashers** on Assateague on Sept. 14, and the latest in the Piedmont was 1 at Rockburn on Nov. 25 (Ott).

*Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes.* Flocks of **American Pipits** included 100 at Bradenbaugh in late October and early November (Kirkwood) and 60 at UMCF on Nov. 22 (Atkinson). Highs for **Cedar Waxwings** were 275 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 7 (Reese) and 400 at Damsite on Oct. 28 (Grubers). The only **Loggerhead Shrikes** reported were the resident pair at Lilypons.

*Starlings, Vireos.* Jane and Ralph Geuder saw an albino European Starling at Columbia on Sept. 13. There were 30 **White-eyed Vireos** on Assateague on Sept. 16 (M. O'Brien, Blom) and a late bird there on Oct. 14 (Hoffman). The high for **Solitary Vireos** was 6 at Cylburn on Oct. 21 (Yokel), and late birds were singles near Frederick on Nov. 1 (Miller), in DC on Nov. 12 (Czaplak) and at Loch Raven on Nov. 18 (Wheeler). Late **Yellow-throated Vireos** were singles at MPEA, Howard County on Sept. 23 (Atkinson), in DC on Sept. 28 (Czaplak), at Denton on Oct. 8 (Short), and at Billmeyer WMA on Oct. 12 (Simons). Eastern Shore reports of **Warbling Vireos** were 1 banded at Damsite on Sept. 4 (Parks) and 1 on Assateague on Sept. 16 (Hoffman); late birds were found in Annapolis on Sept. 19 (Iliff) and at Triadelphia on Sept. 20 (Atkinson). An exceptionally early **Philadelphia Vireo** was near Ellicott City on Aug. 28 (Ott); other reports were of 1 at Turkey Point on Sept. 16 (Yokel), 2 on Assateague on Sept. 16 (M. O'Brien, Blom, Hoffman), 2 at Battery Kemble Park on Sept. 17 (Czaplak), and late singles banded at Broadford Run on Sept. 27 (Skipper, Pope) and at Tilghman on Sept. 28 (Kleen). Late **Red-eyed Vireos** were 1 at Pinto Marsh on Oct. 13 (Simons) and 1 banded at Irvine on Oct. 25 (Ross +).

*Vermivora Warblers, Parula.* The high count of **Blue-winged Warblers** was 8 at Turkey Point on Sept. 3 (Yokel), and late birds were seen on Sept. 16 with 2 in DC (Czaplak) and 1 at Ocean Pines (D. & J. Woods). The only reports of **Golden-winged Warblers** were 1 in Rock Creek Park on Aug. 30 (Hilton), 1 banded at Damsite on Sept. 4 (Parks), 1 near Bozman on Sept. 6-7 (Kleen), and 1 on the C&O Canal in Montgomery County on Sept. 9 (Czaplak), and Iliff found a **Brewster's Warbler** hybrid at Annapolis on Sept. 3. The highs for **Tennessee Warblers** were 30 at Turkey Point on Sept. 16 (Yokel) and 17 in DC on Sept. 30 (Czaplak); on Oct. 21 single late birds were at Assateague (MacKiernan) and Centennial (Wilkinson). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found more frequently than usual, all single birds, at Tilghman on Sept. 28 (Kleen), Assateague



on Sept. 29, Oct. 13, and Oct. 28 (Hoffman), and Oct. 21 (MacKiernan), near Ellicott City on Sept. 30 (Ott), banded at Broadford Run on Oct. 5 and 16 (Skipper, Pope), at Pinto Marsh on Oct. 13 (Simons), at Salisbury on Nov. 17 (Brodericks), and Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). Czaplak found the most **Nashville Warblers** with 4 in DC on Sept. 16 and also the latest with 1 there on Nov. 4. Other late Nashvilles were 1 at Schooley Mill Park on Oct. 17 (Solem, Bockstie), 2 banded at Damsite on Oct. 21 (Parks), and 1 banded at Adventure the next day (Donnald +). Late **Northern Parulas** were 1 in DC on Oct. 15 (Czaplak) and 1 at Ocean City on Oct. 16 (Slaughters).

*Dendroica Warblers.* High counts of **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were 25 at Turkey Point on Sept. 16 (Yokel) and 11 at Triadelphia on Sept. 20 (Atkinson); a late bird was in DC on Oct. 9 (Czaplak). The latest **Magnolia Warbler** was near Ellicott City on Oct. 24 (Ott). Parks estimated a remarkable 20 **Cape May Warblers** at Damsite on Aug. 29; the next highest total was 17 banded at Broadford Run on Sept. 21 (Skipper, Pope). The highs for **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were 8 at Herrington Manor on Aug. 31 (Pope) and 15 at Turkey Point on Sept. 16 (Yokel); an exceptionally late banded bird repeated in the nets at Irvine on Nov. 1 (Ross +). The high estimates of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 600 at Assateague on Oct. 14 (Hoffman) and 800 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 27 (Grubers). The highs for **Black-throated Green Warblers** were 26 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 16 (Reese), 18 at Triadelphia on Sept. 20 (Atkinson), and 18 at Cylburn on Oct. 1 (Yokel); late birds were 1 at Flag Ponds, Calvert County on Oct. 21 (Magnusson) and 1 at Loch Raven on Oct. 24 (Wheeler). The high for **Blackburnian Warblers** was 15 on Green Ridge on Aug. 31 (Simons). Late **Yellow-throated Warblers**, all singles, were on Green Ridge on Sept. 3 (Simons), at McKeldin on Sept. 8 (Ringler), on Assateague on Sept. 9 (Hoffman), at Blackwalnut Point on Sept. 9 (Ringler, near Ellicott City on Sept. 10 (Ott), and in Montgomery County on Sept. 15 (Bonham). The high count of **Pine Warblers** was 41 on Assateague on Sept. 9 (Hoffman); late migrants in upland areas were 1 at Billmeyer WMA on Oct. 12 (Simons), 1 at Columbia on Oct. 21 (Chestem) and 1 at Phoenix on Nov. 23 (Simon). An extraordinarily late **Prairie Warbler** was seen on Assateague on Nov. 3 (Davidson, Wierenga, Klockner). The first **Palm Warbler** of the season was a Western banded at Broadford Run on Sept. 11 (Skipper, Pope), and others of note were 30 (mostly Westerns) on Assateague on Oct. 7 (Hoffman, O'Briens), 5 at Columbia on Oct. 14 (Chestem), 5 (all Yellows) at Hart-Miller on Oct. 14 (Ringler +), 6 at Cylburn on Oct. 16 (Yokel); late birds were 1 at Centennial on Nov. 5 (Ott) and 1 on Assateague on Nov. 18 (Hoffman). An early **Blackpoll Warbler** was banded at Adventure on Sept. 3 (Donnald +); the peak of migration was on Sept. 26 when 13 were banded at Broadford Run (Skipper, Pope), and the latest bird was on Assateague on Oct. 21 (MacKiernan). The only migrant **Cerulean Warbler** reported was near Bozman on Aug. 30 (Kleen).

*Black-and-white Warbler through Waterthrushes.* The high count of **Black-and-white Warblers** was 13 on Assateague on Sept. 9 (Hoffman), and the latest of the season were both seen in Salisbury, 1 on Nov. 9 (Brodericks) and another on Nov. 25 (Vaughns). A Black-and-white banded by Parks at Damsite on Oct. 21 was found dead in Jacksonville, Florida on Nov. 9. The highs for **American Redstarts** were 41 on Assateague on Sept. 8 (Hoffman) and 20 at Point Lookout on Sept. 19 (M. O'Brien). The last **Prothonotary Warbler** of the season was a rarity in Rock Creek Park on Sept. 16 (Czaplak, Hilton). A **Worm-eating Warbler** in DC on Aug. 21 (Czaplak) was a migrant. A very late Ovenbird was at Fruitland on Nov. 2-11 (Slaughters). The first **Northern Waterthrush** of the season was banded at Damsite on Aug. 1 (Parks), and the last was 1 at Denton on Oct. 12 (Nuttle). Late **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were 1 banded at Damsite on Aug. 30



(Parks) and 1 at Columbia on Sept. 11 (Chestem).

*Oporornis Warblers through Chat.* Late **Kentucky Warblers** were 1 in DC on Sept. 16 (Czaplak) and a banded bird that repeated in the nets at Irvine on Sept. 30 (Ross +). Single early **Connecticut Warblers** were banded at Broadford Run on Sept. 2 (Skipper, Pope) and Damsite on Sept. 4 (Parks), and the latest were singles banded at Harford Glen on Oct. 6 (Jim Wiley), Bristol on Oct. 7 (Melville), and Irvine on Oct. 9 (Ross +). Few **Mourning Warblers** were reported, but these included 2 banded at Adventure on Aug. 30 (Donnald +) and 1 seen in Rock Creek Park on Sept. 29 (Czaplak). High counts of **Common Yellowthroats** were 83 at Remington Farms on Sept. 9 (Grubers) and 50 on Assateague on Sept. 16 (M. O'Brien, Blom), and a lingering bird was at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 26 (M. O'Brien, Gough). Late **Hooded Warblers** were 1 at Triadelphia on Sept. 20 (Atkinson), 1 banded at Broadford Run on Sept. 21 (Skipper, Pope), 1 banded at Adventure on Oct. 2 (Donnald +), and a male seen at Point Lookout on Oct. 13 (Wilson, Homan). The earliest **Canada Warblers** were 1 near Ellicott City on Aug. 4 (Ott) and 1 at PRNAS on Aug. 10 (Rambo, Lister). The latest **Yellow-breasted Chat** was banded at Bristol on Oct. 7 (Melville).

*Tanagers, Cardinaline Finches, Towhees.* The only reports of **Summer Tanagers** were of single birds in Montgomery County on Sept. 6 (Bonham) and at Denton on Sept. 27 (Short). The peak number of **Scarlet Tanagers** was 32 at Turkey Point on Sept. 16 (Yokel), and the latest was at Tilghman Island on Oct. 21 (Reese). Early **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were 1 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 26 (Armisteads) and 1 at Triadelphia the same day (Atkinson); the highest counts were on Sept. 16 with 48 at Turkey Point (Yokel) and 30 at Tilghman Island (Reese), and there were 12 birds at Triadelphia on Sept. 23 (Atkinson). High counts of **Blue Grosbeaks** were 40 at Remington Farms on Sept. 4 (Grubers) and 25 at Isle of Wight on Sept. 16 (M. O'Brien, Blom), and late birds were 1 at Ruthsburg on Oct. 2 (Grubers), 1 at Rising Sun on Oct. 10 (Fogleman), and 1 near Bellevue on Oct. 27 (Armisteads). Late **Indigo Buntings** were 2 at Rockburn on Oct. 21 (Ott), 2 in Rock Creek Park on Oct. 27, and 1 on Assateague on Nov. 3 (both Hilton). The **Dickcissels** of the season were an immature on Assateague on Oct. 5 (Hoffman) and 1 at UMCF on Oct. 14 (Atkinson). The high count of **Rufous-sided Towhees** was 31 on Assateague on Oct. 5 (Hoffman).

*Sparrows.* A very early **American Tree Sparrow** was seen in southwest Frederick County on Oct. 31 (Miller) followed by peak counts on Nov. 20 of 15 at Lilypons (M. O'Brien, Gough) and 8 at Centennial (Ott). High counts of migrating **Chipping Sparrows** were 125 at Cylburn on Oct. 16 (Yokel) and 42 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 27 (Grubers); late birds were 1 at Black Hill Park on Nov. 20 (Czaplak) and 1 at Annapolis on Nov. 21 (Iliff). There were 2 **Clay-colored Sparrows** reported on Assateague on Sept. 16 (M. O'Brien, Blom, Hoffman) and 1 through Sept. 28 (Hoffman); the only other sighting was of 1 at Salisbury on Nov. 19 (Brodericks). The peak count of **Field Sparrows** on Assateague was 32 on Oct. 12 (Hoffman). Migrant **Vesper Sparrows** seen this fall were 1 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 14 (Ringler +), 1 at UMCF on Oct. 21 (Atkinson), 3 at Rockville on Oct. 25 (M. O'Brien), 1 in western Howard County on Oct. 25 (Wallace), 1 at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Hoffman), and 2 at Trout Run on Nov. 4 (Pope). The only **Lark Sparrows** reported were on Assateague with an immature on Oct. 7 (MacKeirnan) and an adult on Oct. 19 (Hoffman). Early **Savannah Sparrows** were 1 at Easton on Sept. 10 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga) and 1 at Hog Island on Sept. 11 (M. O'Brien); 43 on Assateague on Oct. 19 (Hoffman) and 125 in southern Dorchester County on Nov. 4 were peak counts (H.

Armistead). The only migrant **Grasshopper Sparrow** detected was banded at Adventure on Oct. 16 (Donnald +). Miller found a migrant **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** in southwest Frederick County on Sept. 30 and Hoffman found 8 on Assateague on Oct. 21. The only **Seaside Sparrows** reported were 1 at Hart-Miller, where rare, on Aug. 19 (Blom +), 4 on Sept. 9 and 1 on Oct. 20 on Assateague (Hoffman) and 6 at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 30 (Walbeck). The first **Fox Sparrows** of the season were 6 at Gwynnbrook on Oct. 20 (Walbeck, Gwen Burkhardt); other high counts were 4 banded at Bristol on Nov. 11 (Melville) and 7 at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 21 (Gough). The earliest Fox Sparrow on the lower Eastern Shore was at Salisbury on Nov. 14 (Brodericks). High counts of **Song Sparrows** were 100 at Rockville on Oct. 10 and 1 albino there on Oct. 15 (M. O'Brien), 183 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 20 (Grubers), and 120 at UMCF on Oct. 21 (Atkinson). The first **Lincoln's Sparrow** of the season was seen at North Branch on Sept. 9 (Twigg), and 5 were found at Schooley Mill Park on Oct. 6 (Magnusson). As usual, Broadford Run station banded the most Lincoln's with 18 this season (Skipper, Pope). Highs for **Swamp Sparrows** were 67 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 20 (Grubers) and 32 at UMCF on Oct. 21 (Atkinson). Early **White-throated Sparrows** were 2 at Remington Farms on Sept. 18 (Grubers) and 1 at Cresaptown on Sept. 22 (Simons); highs were 100 at Cylburn on Oct. 16 (Yokel) and 150 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 27 (Grubers). Early **White-crowned Sparrows** seen on Sept. 30 were 3 at Remington Farms (Grubers) and 1 on Assateague (Hoffman).

*Juncos, Longspurs, Snow Buntings.* Early **Dark-eyed Juncos** were 1 at Mountain Lake Park on Sept. 15 (Pope) and 1 on Assateague on Sept. 22 (Hoffman); there were highs of 100 at Cylburn on Oct. 16 (Yokel) and 400 (including one with narrow white wing bars) at Rockville on Oct. 25 (M. O'Brien). An early **Lapland Longspur** was at Hart-Miller on Oct. 15 (Kaestner, M. O'Brien) and 2 were near Lilypons on Oct. 27 (MacKiernan) and 5 were on Nov. 20 (M. O'Brien, Gough). The first **Snow Buntings** were 1 on Assateague on Oct. 21; 18 were there on Nov. 12 (Hoffman), 1 at Bradenbaugh on Oct. 28 (Kirkwood), 5 at Sandy Point on Oct. 39 (Davidson +), and 1 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 1 (Grubers). Others were 50 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 3 (Dixon), 8 near Lilypons on Nov. 20 (M. O'Brien, Gough), 1 at Ocean City on Nov. 22 (Jack Schultz) and 4 there on Nov. 24, plus 10 at the east end of the Bay Bridge that day (O'Briens).

*Icterines.* Early **Bobolinks** were 2 at Rockville on Aug. 3 (M. O'Brien) and 1 at North Beach the next day (Stasz). The largest flocks of Bobolinks reported were 2000 flying downriver at King's Creek on Aug. 31 (M. O'Brien), 5000 in the Chester River marsh near Chestertown on Sept. 3, and 2500 at Remington Farms the next day (both Grubers). Late Bobolinks were 25 at Rising Sun on Oct. 10 (Fogleman), 45 at Preston on Oct. 11 (Scudder), and 1 on Assateague on Oct. 19 (Hoffman). The only **Yellow-headed Blackbird** of the season was on Assateague on Sept. 19 (Chynoweth +). **Rusty Blackbirds** numbered 32 at Town Hill on Nov. 8 (Paulus, Simons) and 35 at Lilypons on Nov. 20 (M. O'Brien, Gough). Quite rare was a male **Boat-tailed Grackle** at Easton on Aug. 1 as was 1 lingering at Point Lookout on Sept. 19 (both M. O'Brien); the high count was registered on Assateague with 183 on Oct. 19 (Hoffman). High counts of **Common Grackles** were 5000 each at Denton on Sept. 24 and Sassafras on Nov. 27 (both Reese). The highs for **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were 425 at Royal Oak on Sept. 8 (H. Armistead), 700 at Blackwater on Oct. 27 (Armisteads), and 800 in DC on Nov. 10 (Czaplak). A late **Orchard Oriole** was near Bellevue on Aug. 25 (H. Armistead +), and **Northern Orioles** numbered 15 each at Tilghman Island on Aug. 26 (Armisteads) and Damsite on Aug. 30 (Parks), and 9 on Assateague on Sept. 23 (Hoffman); an aberrant reddish bird was seen

in Rock Creek Park on Sept. 29 (Hilton, Czaplak).

*Cardueline Finches*, *House Sparrow*. Early **Purple Finches** were a male at Hugg-Thomas WMA, Howard County on Sept. 9 (Harveys +) and 1 on Assateague on Sept. 16 (M. O'Brien, Blom); the highest tally of the season was 25 near Bellevue on Nov. 18 (H. Armistead +). High counts of **House Finches** were 52 on Assateague on Sept. 29 (Hoffman), 1167 flying south over Chestertown on Oct. 5 (Grubers), 165 in Rock Creek Park on Oct. 6 (Hilton), and 500 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 4 (Reese). The major migration route for House Finch remains the eastern edge of Chesapeake Bay. Early **Pine Siskins** were 1 at Mountain Lake Park on Sept. 28 (Pope) and 1 at Denton on Oct. 6 (Nuttle); there were high tallies of 30 at Chestertown on Nov. 7 (Grubers) and 12 at Rising Sun on Nov. 9 (Fogleman). Emily Joyce noted 2 dependent young **American Goldfinches** at Crofton on Oct. 20; the highest migration counts were 336 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 1 (Grubers) and 125 in southern Dorchester County on Nov. 4 (H. Armistead). A partial albino goldfinch was seen at Schooley Mill Park on Nov. 25 (Magnusson). There were few reports of **Evening Grosbeaks** beginning with 2 in southern Howard County on Oct. 16 (Solem) and 1 at Churchville on Oct. 27 (Spike Updegrave); 28 at Bray Hill, Garrett County on Nov. 19 were the most seen (Skipper). Hoffman found 3 **House Sparrows**, probably migrants, on Assateague on Oct. 5.

6272 Pinyon Pine Court,  
Eldersburg, MD 21784

## WINTER RECORD OF LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*) IN BALTIMORE COUNTY HANK KAESTNER

On March 2, 1986, I led a field trip to Loch Raven Reservoir for the Baltimore Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS). Loch Raven is a large lake just north of Baltimore City, and the site of many MOS field trips.

In the group was Paul Noel, a Baltimore County birder who the year before had located the Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) at Loch Raven. While we were waiting for the participants to gather, Paul mentioned that several days earlier he had seen a large sparrow with rusty stripes on the head and stick-pin spot on a plain breast. When I showed him a picture of the Lark Sparrow in my field guide he immediately confirmed that it was the bird he had seen.

I had no difficulty in persuading the other members of the group to alter the plans and search for the bird. It had been seen near Peerce's Plantation restaurant, in the thickets and weeds of an overgrown streambed. Paul pointed out that when he had been there many birds were present, but on the morning we visited, few were around, and despite an enthusiastic search, no Lark Sparrow was discovered.

Six days later, on Saturday March 8, I returned to look for the Lark Sparrow again. Within several minutes of arriving I heard its distinctive song coming from an impenetrable thicket of sticker bushes along the stream. It is a long and rambling song for a sparrow, reminiscent in some ways of the song of Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), although without the bubbling quality. The song I heard that morning was subdued and somewhat muffled, perhaps because it was so early in the spring, and consisted of alternating trills, warbles, and churrs. The song, which I first heard years ago in North Dakota and most recently a few weeks earlier from the bird wintering at the Denton Sewage Lagoon in Caroline County, is one of the most distinctive I know.

Not satisfied to only hear the bird, I moved around the thicket, spishing continuously in an attempt to draw the bird into view. No luck. Although the thicket was only 10 feet wide and 20 feet long, I was foiled in my attempt to glimpse the quarry. After about 45 minutes, with the bird singing just often enough to tantalize me, I realized that a more painful effort would be necessary if I were to see it. As quietly as possible, and very carefully, I began to penetrate the thicket. The strategy eventually paid off, and I was able to view the bird from 8 - 10 feet away, too close for my binoculars to focus. When I first saw it the bird was in profile, but it finally moved and I could see it head-on.

The bird was an adult Lark-Sparrow, appearing medium to large for a sparrow, close in size to the White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) also present. Most striking were the chestnut stripes on the sides of the head, bordered below by a white eyebrow. The crown was whitish. Another patch of chestnut, bordered by white, appeared on the side of the face. There was a very distinctive moustache streak. The throat was whitish and the remainder of the underparts were off-white. In the center of the breast was the "hat pin" black patch. The back of the bird was light brown with darker brown (blackish?) streaking. I did not see the tail well enough to note the white tips at the corners.

That evening I spread the word that I had refound the Lark Sparrow, and the next morning a group of birders, including Robert Ringler and Pete Webb searched the area. Ringler, who is familiar with the vocalizations of Lark Sparrow, heard the song and identified it, but was unable, despite considerable effort, to coax the bird into view. Later in the week several people searched for, heard, but did not see the bird.

The following Saturday, March 15, I returned to the area, and as I approached the open grassy area near the thicket, saw a large group of sparrows feeding on the ground. They were mostly White-throated Sparrows, with several Rufous-sided Towhees (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) also present. From about 150 feet away I scanned the flock with my 12x Nikon binoculars, and located the Lark Sparrow. The chestnut head strips were evident, but even when the bird was facing away from me the white tips at the corners of the tails could not be seen. When the flock suddenly flushed, however, I was able to see the white on the tail, which was in the same place as the white on the tail of the towhees that flushed. I was unable to find the bird again despite 45 minutes of trying.

The 6th edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List says the Lark Sparrow winters casually from New York south to Florida in the East. As far as I am aware, the Loch Raven and Denton birds are the only winter records for Maryland.

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Timonium, MD 21093

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Editor: Chandler S. Robbins, 7900 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, Md. 20707  
(725-1176)

Assoc. Editor: Robert F. Ringler, 3501 Melody Lane, Baltimore, Md. 21207

Asst. Editors: Eirik A. T. Blom, 1618 Somerville Rd., Bel Air, Md. 21014  
Mark Hoffman, 313 Fernwood Dr., Severna Park, Md. 21014  
James Stasz, P. O. Box 71, North Beach, Md. 20714

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